MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting	**:**	**Youth and Young Adult Committee**
Date and time	:	August 18, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.
Location of Meeting	:	Mesilla Community Center 2251 Calle de Santiago Mesilla, NM 88046
Chairperson	:	Debbie Schoonover
Members Attending	:	**Present:** Cassie Arias-Ward*, Tricia Brainard, Alisa Estrada*, Anton Salome*, Debbie Schoonover, Mary Ulrich **Absent:** Jacqueline Fryar (ex-officio) **Staff:** Skylar Arnold*, Fayth Grijalva, Glory Juarez, Angela Longovia, Diana Luchini*, Krisye Shook*, Jaymi Simms* *attended virtually
Guests in Attendance	:	Rosina Espinoza*, Marissa Molano*, Gerard Nevarez, Juanisha Padilla*, Giselle Palomares*, Sarah Raney*, Ashley Roller*, Marlene Thomas-Herrera*, Sylvia Ulloa, Jeff Waugh*
Summary submitted by/Signature	:	Fayth Grijalva, Administrative Specialist
Next Meeting	:	September 22, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

#	Agenda Item	Summary
1.	**Call to order**	Ms. Schoonover called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m. Ms. Schoonover approved virtual attendance for online members.
2.	**Welcome**	Ms. Schoonover welcomed the attendees.
3.	**Roll Call & Abstentions**	Ms. Grijalva called roll; there were no abstentions.
4.	**Public Comment**	No public comment
5.	**Approval of Agenda**	Ms. Ulrich motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Estrada. Motion passed. The roll call vote was as follows: • Ms. Arias-Ward – yes • Ms. Brainard – yes • Ms. Estrada – yes • Mr. Salome – yes • Ms. Schoonover– yes • Ms. Ulrich– yes

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6.	**Action Items**	a) Approval of July 21, 2026, meeting summary Ms. Ulrich motioned to approve the summary, seconded by Mr. Salome. Motion passed. The roll call vote was as follows: • Ms. Arias-Ward – yes • Ms. Brainard – yes • Ms. Estrada – yes • Mr. Salome – yes • Ms. Schoonover– yes • Ms. Ulrich– yes
7.	**Discussion Items**	a) Overview of Grant Agreement and Service Provider Agreement • Ms. Juarez provided an overview of the DWS Grant Agreement, including key requirements for youth services, funding, performance, and monitoring. She also highlighted the importance of participant-centered services and addressing barriers to support youth in achieving their goals. b) Youth Service Provider Update • Ms. Ulrich presented a proposed brand and logo for the youth program and provided an update on partnership and outreach efforts to connect youth with services and work experiences. She also discussed partnering with existing youth groups for input rather than creating a separate youth subcommittee. • Members expressed support for the Youth Link branding, agreeing that the youth involvement and meaning behind the design were positive aspects. • Ms. Ulrich shared that CYFD Fostering Connections, NM CAFÉ, and other youth-led groups could provide opportunities for youth input and engagement. c) Outreach and Initiatives • Ms. Juarez outlined key youth priorities, including serving disconnected and underserved youth, expanding work experience and career pathways, removing barriers, and strengthening employer connections. She also noted these priorities will be incorporated into the revised local plan. • Ms. Ulloa, a member of the audience, shared insights on barriers facing youth in rural areas, including transportation, family circumstances, housing, and childcare. She emphasized the importance of going directly to the youth and existing community groups to gather feedback. • Ms. Ulrich and Mr. Salome discussed transportation barriers in rural areas and the potential use of gas cards or reimbursement to increase participation in training. Members discussed bringing the issue to the Board and supporting potential policy changes.

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		d) Membership Update • Ms. Juarez shared potential organizations and partners to contact for Youth Committee participation and requested additional recommendations from members. • Members shared recommendations for potential Youth Committee members and discussed the appropriate size of the committee.
8.	**Member Input**	• Ms. Schoonover requested that committee members' contact information be shared. • Mr. Salome thanked everyone for their presentations and time.
9.	**Next Meeting**	Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.
10.	**Adjournment**	Ms. Schoonover adjourned the meeting at 3:26 pm.

Attested: Debbie Schoonover

Date 09/22/2026